

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 17955 311638Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023324 311704Z /56
O 311615Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1037
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17955

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS SOPN, IS, US
SUBJ: WAR-TALK AND THE ROAD TO GENEVA

REF (A) TEL AVIV 8493, (B) TEL AVIV 8487,

1. SHARE AMB LEWIS' CONCERN THAT BELLICOSE TALK AND ACTIONS BY EITHER SIDE ARE HARDLY HELPFUL IN GETTING US TO GENEVA. ALSO AGREE THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS SOMETIMES MADE BY BOTH SADAT AND FAHMY FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY. SO DO VARIOUS ISRAELI STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS, AND MOST RECENT BEING MAJOR ISRAELI MILITARY EXERCISE WHICH BEGINS TODAY IN SINAI. EGYPTIANS READ LATTER IN SAME LIGHT THAT DATT TEL AVIV DOES, I.E., TO PRACTICE POSSIBLE RECOVERY OF MITLA AND GIDI PASSES. IT IS REGRETTABLE, BUT PAINFULLY TRUE, THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN PSYCHOLOGICALLY CONDITIONED TO INTERPRET EACH OTHER'S WORDS AND ACTIONS AS REAL OR IMPLIED THREATS.

2. TRYING TO ADJUDICATE WHO STARTS THESE REGULAR EXCHANGES OF VERBAL FISTICUFFS IS LIKE CHICKEN AND EGG AFFAIR. ON HIS PART, FAHMY DELIGHTS IN NEEDLING ISRAELIS AND HAS HIS LITANY OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEM. SADAT SOMETIMES SIMPLY GETS CARRIED AWAY WITH HIS OWN RHETORIC. I APPRECIATE CURRENT ISRAELI HYPERSENSITIVITY, BUT ISRAELIS SHOULD PERHAPS BE COUNSELED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 17955 311638Z

TO LOOK AT THE ENTIRETY OF SADAT'S SPEECHES RATHER THAN TAKING WORDS OR PHRASES OUT OF CONTEXT. THIS IS THE KIND OF COUNSEL WE FIND OURSELVES REGULARLY GIVING TO EGYPTIANS RE ISRAELI WORDS AND DEEDS.

3. IN ANY CASE, PROBLEM, AT LEAST AS FAR AS GOE IS CONCERNED, IS SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLEX THAN REFTTEL SUGGESTS. DESPITE

ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS, EGYPTIANS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT
BEGIN REALLY WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA FOR GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS.
THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT ISRELIS WILL USE EVERY PROCEDURAL
OPPORTUNITY TO DELAY COMING TO GRIPS WITH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.
THEY MAY BE WRONG, BUT ISRAELI HARD LINE ABOUT WEST BANK,
PLO AND SETTLEMENTS IS READ HERE AS TOTAL INTRANSIGENCE.

4. THIS SAID, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUGGESTING TO BOTH
SADAT AND FAHMY THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO EXERCISE
SOME VERBAL RESTRAINT ON RECIPROCAL BASIS. WOULD, OF
COURSE, ALSO BE HELPFUL IF ISRAELIS COULD BE PERSUADED CALL
OFF THEIR MILITRAY EXERCISE IN SINAI. WHILE THE NATURE
OF THE RESPECTIVE SINS OF COMMISSION MAY BE DIFFERENT, THE
WAY THEY ARE READ BY THE OTHER SIDE IS DECIDEDLY SIMILAR.
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MEETINGS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO17955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770400-0646
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977104/aaaaadbb.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed1a832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 8493, 77 TEL AVIV 8487
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 851527
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WAR-TALK AND THE ROAD TO GENEVA
TAGS: SOPN, MPOL, IS, US, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed1a832b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009